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Salem and Coimbatore districts from Mettur dam for irrigation purposes, after the cut motion was carried in the Council on 16th March last?

A.—No.

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Goundar:—"May I know why no action was taken?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"Orders on the question have either been published in the Press or placed on the table of this House."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"The question refers to Salem and Coimbatore districts. May I ask the Government to state whether they do not propose to give further irrigation facilities to the Coimbatore district?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"Not under the Mettur project."

Agreement between Government and the ryots of the Vadavar Ayacut.

* 410 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was any agreement entered into between the Government on the one hand and the ryots of the Vadavar ayacut on the other between the years 1800—1840; and

(*b*) if so, what were the terms of the agreement and whether a copy of the agreement will be placed on the table?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have called for a report.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know whether the report has since been received?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"No, Sir."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"Will he expedite it, Sir?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"It will take some time to search for the papers. We have had reports that no agreement can be found in the Madras Records office, or in the Superintending Engineer's office or in the Executive Engineer's office. We are awaiting reports from the Collectors."

Clearance of silt in the Buckingham Canal.

* 411 *Q.*—Rao Sahib C. Jayaram Nayudu: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total expenditure incurred in each of the last three years, (i) on the clearance of silt from the Buckingham Canal and (ii) the other improvements to the sections of the said canal situated (1) to the south of Madras and (2) to the north of Madras;

(*b*) the length of the section of the said canal situated to the north of Madras and south of Madras;

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(*c*) whether any petitions were received by the Government from the boat owners' associations or others complaining about the shallowness of the canal especially in the southern section causing delay in the transit of boats loaded with cargo and fuel consigned to Madras; if so, how many in each of the years 1928, 1929 and 1930;

(*d*) what action the Government had taken thereon;

(*e*) whether the Government have enquired as to the condition of the canal for purposes of navigation; if not, what they propose to do for improving the condition of the navigation in the said canal; and

(*f*) whether any proposal was ever made recently or in the pre-Reform days for extending the canal from the Markanam end to the districts of South Arcot and Tanjore and if so, with what result?

A.—(*a*) (i) The Government have not figures of the expenditure on the clearance of silt separately, but the total expenditure on maintenance and repairs, in which the clearance of silt is included, has been as follows in the last three years:

	RS.
1928–29	2,64,057
1929–30	2,27,329
1930–31	2,47,262

(ii) (1) & (2) The expenditure incurred on extensions and improvements to both the south and north canals is

	RS.
1928–29	24,832
1929–30	31,450
1930–31	3,947

Separate figures for south and north canals are not available.

(*b*) 196 miles and 66 miles, respectively.

(*c*) Four petitions were received between 1928 and 1930 dealing, among other things, with clearance of silt.

(*d*) So far as the shallowness of the canal was concerned, estimates amounting to Rs. 1·92 lakhs were sanctioned in 1928 for deepening the Junction and South Canals, but, as the Chief Engineer reported that the work done to the value of about Rs. 60,000 was infructuous owing to heavy springs and lightness of the soil of the bed, further work was stopped.

(*e*) Yes. No improvements other than annual maintenance including the clearance of silt are contemplated.

(*f*) The proposal was considered several times in the past, but it was decided that it was impracticable and prohibitively expensive.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May we know the income that is derived from the Buckingham canal?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"I must ask for notice."

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Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" May I know who is responsible for the waste of Rs. 60,000 over a work which was found to be infructuous? It is said that the work done to the value of about Rs. 60,000 was infructuous owing to heavy springs and lightness of the soil of the bed. Why did not the Chief Engineer consider this before wasting Rs. 60,000? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" I do not think it could be known to anybody that these springs existed to the extent to which they did or that their effect would be so great as to affect the work that was done."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" May I ask what the reference to the spring is? It is apparent that the Chief Engineer adopted the particular method of carrying out the work, apparently by pumping out water. Is it not possible to dredge the canal ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" As earth is removed, mud comes up from underneath."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" To get over the difficulty of springs, the question is whether it could not be dredged."

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" I will ask for a report on the suggestion."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" My question is, have all these been not examined before launching on the scheme ? "

Land Revenue Administration

Failure to pass the equitation test a bar to promotion as Deputy Collector.

* 412 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any Sub-Magistrates or Tahsildars have been debarred from promotion to the rank of Deputy Collectors on the mere ground that they have failed to pass the horse-riding test;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that most of the Deputy Collectors never maintain or use a horse after they pass the riding test; and

(*c*) whether the Government have at any time been asked to consider the question of abolishing the equitation test as a compulsory test for Deputy Collectors?

A.—(*a*) No person is eligible for selection for admission to the Madras Civil Service (Executive Branch) by promotion from the Madras Revenue Subordinate Service unless among other qualifications he has passed the Equitation Test.

(*b*) The Government are not aware that the fact is as suggested.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar :—" If any representation has been received, will the Government consider it now ? "